

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A call screening database device for use in a packet-based communication network
2 comprising:

3 one or more communication devices providing access to a gatekeeper;
4 a memory device including a screening database; and
5 a processor operable to receive a request from the gatekeeper through the one or more
6 communication devices wherein the gatekeeper receives,
7 wherein in response to a received request, the processor performs call screening in
8 conjunction with the screening database.

1 2. The call screening database of claim 1, wherein the processor performs call
2 screening by querying the screening database, determining a response to the received request,
3 and sending the response to the gatekeeper.

1 3. The call screening database device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or
2 more communication devices provides access to a packet-based network.

1 4. The call screening database device of claim 3, wherein the packet-based network
2 is an Internet protocol (IP) network.

1 5. The call screening database device of claim 1, wherein the memory device is
2 random access memory (RAM).

1 6. The call screening database device of claim 1, wherein the memory device is a
2 computer harddrive.

1 7. The call screening database device of claim 1, wherein the screening database is a
2 flat file database.

1 8. The call screening database device of claim 1, wherein the screening database is a
2 relational database.

1 9. The call screening database device of claim 1, wherein the screening database is
2 an object-oriented database.

1 10. The call screening database device of claim 1, wherein the received request
2 includes a dialed number, and determining a response to the received request includes:
3 determining whether the received request is permitted; and
4 creating a response number using the dialed number and the received request.

1 11. The call screening database device of claim 10, wherein sending the response to
2 the gatekeeper includes sending the response number.

1 12. The call screening database device of claim 10, wherein the response number
2 includes a routing index.

1 13. The call screening database device of claim 1 wherein the packet-based
2 communication network includes one or more H.323 endpoints.

1 14. The call screening database device of claim 1, wherein the packet-based
2 communication network includes one or more Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) endpoints.

1 15. A Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network comprising:
2 a first endpoint connected to a packet network;
3 a gateway connected to the packet network; and
4 a call screening database device connected to the packet network, the call screening
5 database device having a screening database residing in a memory for processing a call
6 request from the first endpoint to a second endpoint.

1 16. The VoIP network of claim 15 wherein the packet network is an Internet Protocol
2 (IP) network.

1 17. The VoIP network of claim 15 wherein the second endpoint is an H.323 endpoint.

1 18. The VoIP network of claim 15 wherein the second endpoint is a Session Initiation
2 Protocol (SIP) endpoint.

1 19. The VoIP network of claim 15 wherein the call screening database device
2 processes a call by:
3 receiving a query message requesting the location of the second endpoint;
4 querying the screening database using information from the query message; and
5 sending a response message based on a result of querying the screening database.

1 20. The VoIP network of claim 19 wherein the received message and the response
2 message conform to the H.323 protocol.

1 21. The VoIP network of claim 19 wherein the received message and the response
2 message conform to the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

1 22. A method of screening calls using a call screening database in a packet-based
2 communication network, the method comprising:
3 receiving a call request in a gateway;
4 processing the call request in conjunction with a screening database residing in a
5 memory of a screening database device; and
6 routing the call request in response to the process.

1 23. The method of claim 22 wherein processing the call request includes:
2 sending a message to a gatekeeper, the gatekeeper processing the message in
3 conjunction with the screening database; and
4 receiving a message from the gatekeeper.